

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



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16711
March 19, 1999

Mr. Wayne A. Martin
Tidewater Marine
P.O. Box 1519
Amelia, LA 70340

Dear Mr. Martin:

This is in reply to your January 12, 1999 letter to U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, Morgan City requesting guidance on the geographic limitations for offshore supply vessels acting as their own rescue platforms.

A U. S. flag offshore supply vessel which is not required to comply with SOLAS 74/78 may act as its own rescue platform beyond the continental shelf of the United States. This option is available for cargo vessels of less than 500 gross tons not required to carry SOLAS certificates and is applicable regardless of the vessel's location, either on or beyond the continental shelf of the United States. However, this assumes that the vessel otherwise meets the requirements to act as its own rescue platform. Please note that while a vessel equipped to serve as its own rescue platform is not prevented from voyages outside the U. S. OCS, it may still be restricted to non-international voyages for other reasons (i.e. more than 12 persons in addition to crew).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact LCDR W. Daughdrill at (504) 589-6193.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. T. Desmond".

C. T. DESMOND

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Chief, Marine Safety Division
By direction of the Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District

Copy: All Eighth District Gulf Region MSOs, MSDs and MSU